

April 28, 2003

**Public Notice for 401 Certification
Redwood Creek Apartments**

Sonoma County

On November 15, 2002 the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Pete Rossick, on behalf of the Spanos Corporation, requesting approval for disturbances to waters of the state and other water quality impacts associated with the development of the proposed project.

The proposed project is located at 600 Rohnert Park Expressway in Rohnert Park. The project applicant proposes to build a 220-unit low-income rental community which will include a recreation center, swimming pool, parking lots, and eleven buildings (ranging from one to three stories high). The project site is 12.3 acres in size, 0.174 acres of which are "waters of the state" (one ponded area, a drainage channel, and a 0.002 acre portion of Hinebaugh Creek). All 0.174 acres will be permanently impacted as part of the proposed project. The drainage channel and ponded area will be filled, and a rip-rap storm drain outfall will be placed on the bank of Hinebaugh Creek.

To mitigate for the loss of wetland habitat, the applicant proposes to purchase preservation and creation credits from a mitigation bank. Final proof of purchase has not yet been received by this office. The project site is also located in an area of potential Sonoma County California Tiger Salamander (CTS) habitat. The biological assessment for the project states that the presence of CTS on the parcel is unlikely, but Fish and Wildlife has not concurred with that opinion at this time.

The project applicant is engaged in the application process with the California Department of Fish and Game, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The City of Rohnert Park is preparing the California Environmental Quality Act documentation required for this project.

At this time the Regional Water Quality Control Board is in the process of reviewing the proposed project regarding the issuance of the 401 Certification Permit. The Regional Water Quality Control Board will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Lauren Hocker by email at hockl@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, or send comments to Regional Water Quality Control Board, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.